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February 24, 2003

Brandy Phillips Campaign Finance Analyst Reports Analysis Division Federal Election Commission Washington, DC 20463

Re: Identification Number C00205369

Dear Ms. Phillips:

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This letter is in response to your letters to Thomas C. Roberts, Treasurer, Van Ness Foldman, P.C. Political Action Committee ("VNF PAC"), dated January 29, 2003. These letters were prompted by the Federal Election Commission's ("FEC") preliminary review of several reports filed in 2002 by VNF PAC. The letters raised questions concerning certain information included in those reports.

#### May Monthly Report (4/1/02 - 4/30/02) L

According to your letter and attachment thereto, the Commission's preliminary review of VNF PAC's May 2002 monthly report raised questions regarding certain totals and calculations contained in that report. We have reviewed our records and determined that this discrepancy is due to a recording error. Specifically, a \$500 contribution that was never made during the prior reporting period (and therefore was not reported on VNF PAC's April 2002 quarterly report) was nonetheless inadvertently reflected in column 6(b) of the May monthly report, resulting in the underreporting of "Cash on hand at Beginning of Reporting Period" by an amount of \$500. VNF PAC is filing an amendment to the May 2002 monthly report and any affected subsequent reports to reflect this correction.

#### <u> June Montaly Report (5/1/02 - 5/31/02)</u> II.

According to your letter and attachment thereto, the Commission's preliminary review of VNF PAC's June 2002 monthly report raised questions regarding a contribution made by VNF PAC to John Shimkus, dated May 14, 2002. Your letter suggests that this contribution may be impermissible because, according to the monthly report, the contribution was disclosed for the primary election, but was made after the 2002 Illinois primary date, which occurred on March 19, 2002.

VNF PAC's May 14, 2002 to John Shimkus was incorrectly disclosed in VNF PAC's June 2002 monthly report as a contribution for the 2002 primary election. This contribution should have been reported as a contribution for the 2002 general election, as reported in the July 15, 2002 Quarterly Report filed with the Commission by Volunteets for Shimkus. VNF PAC is filing an amendment to its June 2002 monthly report to make the appropriate correction.

## III. July Monthly Report (6/L/02 - 6/30/02)

According to your letter and attachments thereto, the Commission's preliminary review of VNF PAC's July 2002 monthly report raised questions regarding two contributions: (A) a June 11, 2002 contribution to Dennis Rehberg, designated for the primary election; and (B) a June 4, 2002 contribution to Ben Nelson, designated for the primary election.

## A. June 11, 2002 Contribution to Dennis Rebberg

Your letter suggests that VNF PAC's June 11, 2002 contribution to Dennis Rehberg may be impermissible because, according to the monthly report, the contribution was designated for the primary election, but was made after the 2002 Montana primary date, which occurred on June 4, 2002. A copy of the letter sent to the campaign committee for Dennis Rehberg requesting a refund of this contribution is enclosed.

## B. June 4, 2002 Contribution to Ben Nelson

Your letter suggests that VNF PAC's June 4, 2002 contribution to Ben Nelson may be impermissible because the contribution was made after the 2002 Nebraska primary date, which occurred on May 14, 2002. Ben Nelson was elected to the United States Senate in 2000, and is a candidate for reelection in 2006. He was not a candidate in the Nebraska primary in 2002. Because the VNF PAC contribution was made in connection with Mr. Nelson's candidacy for reelection in 2006, and the primary date for that election has not yet occurred, we believe this contribution to be permissible.

Thank you for bringing these matters to our attention. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Roberts

Treasurer

# Federal Election Commission -

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